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Associated Students of Eastern Washington University

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THE EASTERNER

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Restructuring Academic Advising

EWU changing advising system Fall 2016

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Cheney residents looking to save train station.



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Lidia Yuknavitch first nonfiction writer of Visiting Writer Series.



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Women's basketball wins final home game.

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Editor's note:

The one about advising

Eric Long | editor-in-chief



Academic advising at Eastern was never what it should have been and students seemed to come out of meetings with their advisers more confused than when they went in. Some would go to multiple advisers and each meeting produced a different answer to the students' problems. Now, finally, something is being done about the issue.

During the Feb. 26 board of trustees meeting, a plan was presented to overhaul how academic advising functions at Eastern.

With a focus on communication and a new team structure that will build lasting relationships between students and advisers, this plan should be highly welcomed. Read more about how this restructuring plan came about in "Academic advising changes underway" by Jasmine Ari Kemp on pg. 3.

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The historic Cheney train station is under the threat of demolition and the group Save our Station was formed to raise money to save it, pg. 4.

Joe Matthews is not happy with the current selection of two-credit classes, pg. 11.

Readers can learn more about the accreditation process and find out if the rumors are true about the state of Eastern's accreditation, pg. 6.

ABOUT THE EASTERNER

Our Mission: The mission of The Easterner is to inform the students, faculty, staff and nearby residents of Eastern Washington University of the governance, activities and views of the campus while providing a learning environment for students interested in journalism and related fields. Our main goal is to publish high-quality news content to the community of Eastern Washington University.

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Academic advising changes underway

EWU is implementing a new centralized and student-focused advising program

By Jasmine Ari Kemp | news editor



A student waiting for an advising appointment in Showalter Hall | Photo contributed by Jasmine Ari Kemp

Rather than have students meander all over campus for advising, only to settle on using a SOAR audit, EWU is building a new centralized advising program.

On Feb. 26, Heather Page, director of academic advising, and Chris Robbins, project manager for the new advising overhaul, presented the board of trustees with a new structure for academic advising. The changes to the program will begin in fall quarter of 2016 and will be fully enacted by fall 2017.

Robbins said the current system cannot support the amount of students enrolled. The new system would not only be able to handle an expanding campus, but would also place all undergraduate advisers in one centralized location.

This centralized location would be the first place students go for an advising. Page said that in this central location, students

would be assigned to a team of advisers who are specially trained for particular majors or programs and the students' interests.

A team would lessen the caseloads each adviser would be assigned.

"One [adviser] might serve a large group of 600-700 students ... it's impossible for advisers to schedule that in a quarter," Page said.

For Eastern, this means more jobs. Robbins said he would like to see teams of advisers include three to five people where each team represents particular fields of study, such as global initiatives, athletics, honors and diversity programs.

With the new system, Page said there would be a focus on communication. Students would be able to build a relationship

with their advising team, and the advising teams would be able to reach out to faculty advisers.

As of now, Page said she views advising at EWU like a transaction. The only time students talk to their advisers is when they have a registration hold. "Getting rid of that hold distracts from the most important part of advising," she said.

Students should be taught how to reach their outcomes, that way they are not sitting at 200 credits thinking about changing majors, Page said.

A new advising structure will not only affect students, but faculty as well.

With new hires, university president Mary Cullinan said in an email to EWU employees that current advising staffers would continue to be employed, but changes to their job descriptions may occur.

Lisa Olson, representing EWU's public school employees union, said she was concerned about the massive changes to advising when she found out about it from concerned members of her union in early February.

Olson said she was personally aware of how much care was taken in making the plan, but said she hopes that the same care is taken into implementation.

"Change can be exciting and highly motivating, but also frightening ... don't lose sight of the human element in this," Olson said.

The changes to the advising program have already begun. Robbins said while there is no official physical location for advising, new staff will be hired and training will begin in spring quarter and continue through the summer. The 2016-2017 academic year will allow the administration to press out kinks within the system.

"By 2017, brand new students will not know it's a new system," Robbins said.

“

Change can be exciting and highly motivating, but also frightening ... don't lose sight of the human element in this.

Lisa Olson | EWU public school union representative

Cheney residents fighting to save train station

By Devante Gaillard | contributing writer

Residents of Cheney are trying to save the historic train station from the wrecking ball.

Save our Station is an organization raising funds and awareness to relocate the station.

The station is currently boarded up and surrounded by tracks on either side. Proximity to other live train tracks prevent the building from being accessible to the public. Since Burlington Northern Sanfe Fe Railway has no use for the building, and it is unusable in its current spot, it must be moved to be preserved.

Save our Station member and university archivist at Eastern, Charles Mutschler, Ph.D., said the former site of the Union 76 building and the former site of the Beehive are the two they are most interested in.

"They're both on First Street ... we want this to be visible," Mutschler said.

In 2014, BNSF had already postponed their demolition plans so Save our Station could come up with a proposal to save the building. Now, BNSF is giving them some more time to raise the money they need to carry out the proposal.

Save our Station has a goal of \$1 million dollars to raise over the course of the next year or so. A benefactor close to the project, Peter O. Hansen, Ph.D., agreed to match any dollar amount raised, effectively driving the goal down to half a million.

The train station has ties to Eastern throughout its history. Back in the early 1900s, students attending Eastern would arrive primarily by train. After catching up with friends at the station,

students would make their way toward College Avenue. From there, they would walk their belongings up the road and eventually arrive right in front of Showalter Hall where they would register for classes.

Downtown Cheney functioned as a transportation hub for students. El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant used to be the home of a trolley station capable of taking students into Spokane said Save our Station member and city council member John Taves.

The train station was also the vehicle for Cheney's only visit from the President of the United States. In 1950, President Harry S. Truman visited Cheney on his way home from dedicating the Grand Coulee Dam. During his visit, he walked through campus and shook hands with Donald Williams, the dean of associate students at Eastern Washington Teacher's School.

Former student of Eastern Thomas Davis holds lots of memories about the train station. Davis recalls the immense amount of responsibility that came with being the station telegrapher. He had to receive train freight, care for passengers and direct train traffic all at the age of 18. Train communication was done by morse code which Davis will detail at the Cheney Public Library on March 12.

If the depot is moved, its use it still uncertain. What is certain is the large effort put forth by these Cheney residents to save their station.

"Its an important part of the historical development of the university and Cheney," Taves said.



President of the Associated Students of Eastern Washington College of Education Don Williams shakes hands with United States President Harry S. Truman on March 11, 1950. Truman was visiting Eastern during his trip back to Washington, D.C., after dedicating Grand Coulee Dam.

Contributed by EWU Libraries - EWU Archives & Special Collections, Negative 000-1157



The train station was repainted in 1982 in adherence to BNSF standards. The practice was discontinued shortly after, and in the late 1980s the Cheney depot reverted to its Northern Pacific tan with medium brown trim.

Contributed by Charles V. Mutschler and Karissa Berg

Hoverboard restrictions enacted on campus

By Natasha Nellis | contributing writer

Following the outburst of hoverboard fires in the news, EWU enacted an interim policy to ban hoverboards from being stored on campus. Steps were taken leading up to this decision, a rough draft of the policy exchanged from group to group, and a final interim policy, available for viewing on the school's website, was enacted.

Trent Lutey, university policy administrator, considered buying his daughter a hoverboard for Christmas when the rash of hoverboard fires caught his attention. Lutey said that following this, his office was contacted by a student who voiced concerns about the safety of hoverboards. This, along with the ban enacted by Washington State University on Jan. 10, had EWU's administration board's attention, which started the process of both considering whether or not Eastern needed a similar policy and what exactly it should say.

Lutey said the University Policy Administration staff viewed videos online of hoverboards bursting into flames and examined the reports released by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) that warned of the potential fire hazards of hoverboards. Then the staff consulted other departments on campus, including campus police and the Risk Management Committee, to determine the policy's necessity as well.

Laurie Connelly, associate to the president at EWU, said one of the challenges faced was determining which hoverboards to ban, and how wide the policy needed to span. "Although they are different brands [the important parts] all come from the same factories," Connelly said. The important parts are the lithium ion batteries which are the determined cause for the fires.

These cheaply-made batteries, according to an article on wired.com, burst into flames if they are damaged, overcharged or if something punctures the separator between the circuits. The real danger however, is that there is no way of telling there is something wrong with the machine until it is too late, said Jay Whitacre, professor of Materials Science and Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University in an interview with wired.com.

This unpredictability was a large linchpin in the decision to ban hoverboards said Lutey and Connelly. A video was put online of a student at the University of Washington, Bothell campus, who barely made it outside with his hoverboard before



Illustration by Hedi Watchel

it burst into flames, which could have started a fire in the dorms, said Lutey. Connelly said the primary concern is student safety, and with this in mind, the policy process began.

Eastern Washington University has its own policy management system where proposals are first researched, then passed off to Eastern's attorneys to ensure the legality of the proposals and if they comply with federal laws, and to see if any federal agencies require policies. Then it is discussed with those whom the policy would affect, and those comments are taken into consideration. "Part of our goal is to get people's involvement ... we have many times amended the policies," Connelly said.

Lutey said the university had policies before that created "a bit of uproar." The social media policy for example, enacted in 2011, detailed the proper usage rules of anyone using the school's social media platform and the policy administration staff met with those groups who voiced concerns to discuss their issues.

Next, a draft was put together, which was then handed to the attorney general to once more check for legal compliance. After, it was given to the university president and the

president's executive committee to ensure the final product was what the university needed, and an interim policy was enacted.

The policy as it stands now does not prohibit the presence of hoverboards on campus grounds, but they are not permitted to be stored on campus or in campus housing. "People might just be traversing the campus," Lutey said, giving an example of a high school student heading home, so they did not opt to completely ban hoverboards from campus grounds.

The interim policy, which took effect Jan. 15, will only be effective for 150 days, according to Connelly, as this is standard policy procedure. As it stands, the current hoverboard ban will be ineffective on June 13.

For the policy to become permanent, the board of trustees must choose to enact it. It is currently on its agenda and was discussed on Feb. 26. According to Connelly, the board will consider the policy twice before it is added to the official school policy. The meeting on Feb. 26 was the first of these discussions.

"Until there is at least some regulatory standards," Connelly said, whether by the CPSC or the companies manufacturing the hoverboards. "The school will continue to ban [them]."

EWU to host leadership program

By Kalli Wolf | staff writer

Eastern was chosen as one of three universities in the nation to host a one-day National Education for Women's (NEW) Leadership pilot program.

NEW Leadership was started at Rutgers University in New Jersey by the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP).

The program was developed to empower and educate young women while encouraging them to become politically active and take leadership roles.

The program takes place on March 4 and is a non-partisan event that is completely free to students if they applied by Feb. 19.

EWU Women's Studies Center manager Lisa Logan said the other two locations chosen for the one-day pilot program are also in Washington — Green River Community College in Auburn and the University of Washington, Bothell in Bothell.

The Women's Funding Alliance, located in Seattle, provided a \$5,000 grant to allow Eastern to host the event.

After the Women's Funding Alliance released a report on the economic status of women in Washington state, EWU professor Jessica Willis worked to bring a representative from the organization to speak at Eastern. Logan said this is how the relationship between Eastern and Women's Funding Alliance developed.

"That was the precursor to them choosing us as one of the universities they wanted to provide with funds for the leadership institute," Logan said.

Women interested in participating had to turn in an application, which was reviewed by a committee. A total of 29 students were approved.

NEW leadership pilot program continues on page 6



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NEW leadership pilot program continued from page 4

Logan said they tried to recruit students from underrepresented groups or students who might not consider themselves leaders. Faculty was asked to recommend the program to students they saw leadership potential in.

Throughout the day there will be several workshops. Including a presentation on women in American politics, as well as Washington women in politics.

"Our state has a unique history of electing a lot of women to office," Logan said.

There will also be a discussion on women in leadership. Logan said students will be able to identify political issues they care about and start seeing different aspects of leadership, aside from just the political side of leadership.

Former Washington state senate majority leader Lisa Brown will be the keynote speaker. Afterward, a panel of political and organizational women leaders will discuss their own paths to success.

Other activities include a leadership action plan the students will make for themselves and a public speaking workshop. "It's a women's leadership institute, so we'll talk some about gender and leadership expectations that might be different of women than of men who are in leadership roles," Logan said.

Behind the scenes, Logan said there was a lot of student and presenter recruiting. "It's non-partisan, so we have attempted to recruit people from across the political spectrum to be as speakers that day," she said.

Logan attended a six-day NEW Leadership program in 2008 while she was a student at Eastern. The program was at WSU and she said it was a great opportunity for her to find out things she was already doing that she had not considered leadership prior to attending.

This one-day pilot program is helping advertise and recruit for the six-day program. "The main difference [between the two programs] is that while we will talk about women in political leadership for an hour and a half, there they may have sessions on it throughout the week," Logan said.

After the leadership summit, each student will present a very short presentation about their ideas on leadership.

"The opportunity to network with so many different women who have so many different paths to leadership all throughout the day will be really powerful," Logan said.

The next six-day program will take place at WSU in June. Applications are due on March 31 and there will be a cost associated. Students can contact the Women's and Gender Studies department for more information.

EWU's accreditation safe and sound

By Kalli Wolf | staff writer

Rumors regarding Eastern being in jeopardy of losing its accreditation have been floating around campus.

When Vice Provost and EWU Accreditation Liaison Officer Colin Ormsby heard, he was ready to set the record straight and provide valuable information regarding what goes into the accreditation process.

There are a total of six regional accrediting bodies. Eastern belongs to the Northwest Commission of Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). Ormsby said in order for any college, university or community college to receive federal funds, they must be accredited by their regional accrediting body.

Although the NWCCU is a professional body we belong to, Ormsby said EWU needs their blessing in order to operate under the rules and regulations of the federal government and use federal funds of any kind.

"The federal government has no means to directly regulate us, so they do it through our accrediting body," he said.

There are series of standards Eastern must follow, all of which are evaluated within a seven-year cycle.

Ormsby said the first step of the cycle is a site visit followed by a series of recommendations regarding areas in which the evaluating team, consisting of people from institutions similar to Eastern, feels the university needs improvement on.

Following is a one-year report stating the plan to address the recommendations made after the site visit. Third is a mid-cycle report that takes place around the third year. At this point, progress is reported based on what the university said they were going to do in their one-year report. Finally, it ends with a seven-year report.

Eastern received some recommendations regarding a few things, one being student assessment. Ormsby said this is not uncommon, and the university is now addressing all recommendations.

"Keep in mind, there is a process by which an institution would lose its accreditation, and we are not even in that process," Ormsby said.

Frequently, the way accreditation is lost is through gross financial mismanagement, fraud or other mismanagement issues that prevent students from getting a full education. All of which, Ormsby assured, Eastern will not suffer from.

If any of these issues were to surface, Ormsby said the NWCCU would first ask for corrective action. Eastern would address the issues, and they would then be reviewed. "It would be a several-year process," Ormsby said.

However, Eastern is still expected to follow the standards established by its accrediting body, one being assessment. From speaking to many of his colleagues at other institutions, Ormsby said assessment is an issue for many institutions in the northwest, according to NWCCU. "We are doing everything in our power to respond to that," he said.

In in the event Eastern did close, the university would attempt to work out a deal with similar institutions, allowing students to transfer and complete their degrees in a timely manner.

Ormsby said the rumors probably surfaced because Eastern just finished its review process.

"We are not in danger of losing our accreditation," Ormsby said.



Visting author brings crowd to tears at Auntie's

By Natasha Nellis | contributing writer

“**B**ecause I’m American.” This was visiting author Lidia Yuknavitch’s response to why the themes of her stories focus on sexuality and violence. “[Americans] are raised in violence as a commodity. ... I don’t think I am writing; I think I am unwriting, moving from the cliché of entertainment. ... In America, it’s tricky to talk about violence without it turning into entertainment,” Yuknavitch said.

Author of “The Chronology of Water,” “The Small Backs of Children” and “Dora: A Headcase,” Yuknavitch is the most recent visiting author to the EWU Get Lit! Program and Inland Northwest Center for Writers Visiting Writer Series. Her reading on Feb. 26 brought a full house to Auntie’s Bookstore in Spokane complete with a sobering rendition of one of her newest works, “Woven.”

Interwoven with classic Lithuanian folk tales, the piece told several snippets of Yuknavitch’s life, flowing between the violence and pain Yuknavitch has experienced to tales of the water spirit Laumė her grandmother shared with her. As she read aloud, her hands flew into the air, her face expressive, and the crowd responded, laughing at the humorous parts, quieting when she spoke of the pain. By the end, there were several with tears in their eyes and smiles on their faces.

Yuknavitch’s piece does not follow the traditional linearity of other works, a fact she said she loves about it. “To tell my life story linearly would erase it,” Yuknavitch said. Yuknavitch paints to draw her inspiration, she said, much like her abstract works of art. This threading together of a story captures the emotion imbued within her paintings, but in words on paper rather than paint on canvas.

It is this honesty and realism that drew Eastern students Lydia Mulligan and Leah Butterwick to the event. “We read her book in [nonfiction] intro class,” said Mulligan, an English 101 student-teacher. “[It] is a really great, really beautiful, emotional, powerful memoir.”

“I hadn’t read any of her work until tonight,” said Butterwick. “[But] I’m trying to learn everything I can.”

Mulligan said it was the “beauty and honesty in her writing and the juxtaposition of both,” in Yuknavitch’s works that captured her.

Eastern MFA candidate Danielle Buynack had the honor of introducing Yuknavitch.

MFA students work with writers to workshop their own works, and Buynack said she felt she connected with Yuknavitch. “Unafraid,” “brave” and “human” were a few terms she used to describe the draw of Yuknavitch. “When I read her, I feel like there’s someone who knows me on the page, ... knows my soul,” Buynack said.

Yuknavitch is the first in the nonfiction writer series of the Get Lit! Program, according to Rachel Toor, a nonfiction professor at EWU and the coordinator of Yuknavitch’s event. Toor said Yuknavitch was chosen to speak after students read her memoir in the graduate nonfiction classes and several of the students requested her to speak.

“She’s a great teacher, and her work is beautiful,” Toor said.

Yuknavitch teaches at Eastern Oregon University in a variety of departments and is on the MFA faculty. She is also one of the editors of the Chiasmus Press.

Her novel “The Chronology of Water” won several awards including the 2012 Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Award, the 2012 Readers’ Choice Oregon Book Award and the 2011 Best Books of the Year by the Oregonian. It was also a finalist for the PEN Center USA Creative Nonfiction Award.

Yuknavitch’s advice to aspiring writers is to “never surrender and never let anyone steal your voice from you.”

“Writing like others is brutal ... heart-breaking,” Yuknavitch said. “You do have a vision inside of you.”

“[Americans] are raised in violence as a commodity. ... I don’t think I am writing; I think I am unwriting, moving from the cliché of entertainment.”

Lidia Yuknavitch | visiting author



Lidia Yuknavitch reads her work “Woven” at Auntie’s Bookstore | contributed by Jeff Bunch

MOVIE REVIEW

‘Eddie the Eagle’ a true underdog sports story

By Joe Matthews | staff writer



Eddie Edwards made history in the 1988 Winter Olympics, becoming the first athlete to ever compete in ski jumping for Great Britain. Doing so when nobody believed he could, after the heartbreak of being cut from the downhill team, and with absolutely no money, Edwards overcame great adversity to fulfill his dream. Through the newly released feel-good comedy “Eddie the Eagle” we are able to follow his journey of incredible determination as he achieved his goal of becoming an Olympian.

Edwards is introduced as a young boy who wears leg braces because of a physical disability. Though slower than others, he stayed positive and was set on becoming an Olympian no matter what the sport may be. When the braces came off, he found he had a knack for skiing and didn’t look back from there.

Edwards was never the best skier, but his hard work and dedication earned him a chance to qualify for the Olympic downhill team. Unfortunately, the Olympic committee wasn’t too fond of Edwards and, thinking he would just make a mockery of the sport, cut him before the tryouts even began.

About to give up, Edwards realized Great Britain didn’t have a ski jumping team, so he decided to form one and become the lone member. Trying to shut him out of the Olympics again, the Olympic committee told Edwards he would have to jump 61 meters in a competition before he would be able to qualify for the games. Never having jumped before, the task seemed impossible to most, but not to Edwards.

Finding a coach and attempting more than 60 jumps a day until he finally hit his mark, Edwards didn’t give up even when crashes left him hospitalized. Solely wanting to take part in the Olympic Games and not caring what color medal he won or didn’t win, Edwards demonstrated that it’s not how you finished that matters, but how you got there.

There have been many underdog sports movies in the last 20 years. From classic dramas like “Remember the Titans” and “Miracle,” to comedies such as “The Water Boy” and “BASEketball,” comeback stories have a way of connecting with people and “Eddie the Eagle” is no exception. Following the true story of an ordinary person who achieved such extraordinary heights, both literally and figuratively, “Eddie the Eagle” captured the complete essence of what it means to be the perpetual underdog.

Taron Egerton and Hugh Jackman pair up wonderfully as Edwards and his coach, former Olympic ski jumper Bronson Peary. Egerton does a brilliant job and is extremely likable, while Jackman plays the gruff and drunk outcast that fits his still Wolverine-ish personality. Together, their chemistry worked well and gave the audience a team worth rooting for.

Based on the true story of Edward “The Eagle” Edwards, “Eddie the Eagle,” though similar to most sports movies, is a great feel-good story that really brings out the human spirit. And even though Eddie did not win any medals, his journey is pure gold.

COLUMN

How nutrition and sleep can help with your finals

By Kristi Lucchetta | staff writer



Illustration by Linlin Xing

Stress levels can be high and energy levels low as finals week approaches. Sleep and nutrition can be key to making students’ lives easier during dead week along with preparation throughout the quarter.

Not only will getting enough sleep help with test performance, learning a new skill and staying on task, but it may also be a critical factor healthwise, including maintaining weight and energy levels, according to sleepfoundation.org.

Peter Shields, Ph.D., EWU communications professor and adviser, instructs students to prioritize which finals might need the most attention and to use time management skills accordingly.

“I would advise students to take advantage of the opportunities given by professors,” said Shields. “Us professors want our students to succeed, so communicate and find students who are like-minded to form study groups.”

Shields said he gives his students study guides and review sessions which he expects them to study two to three weeks before the final to be prepared.

“Sometimes I have to study, but how I study usually depends on the class,” EWU junior Blake Snyder said.

Massive amounts of caffeine consumption by students may tend to backfire on them. The more caffeine a person consumes during the day, the harder it will be to fall asleep at night. Sleep deprivation can also affect cognitive skills and academic achievement.

Students may think they can catch up on sleep when the weekend comes around, but this is not a good option. The Mayo Clinic webpage advises against pushing sleep until the weekend, saying sleep schedules can affect the biological clock

and cause irritability.

Aside from just sleep, reaching for the energy drink over some veggies will only make it harder for the body to sustain energy for a longer period of time.

According to the Mayo Clinic webpage, studies show deficiencies in other vitamins and minerals are shown to inhibit cognitive abilities and mental concentration. Amino acid and carbohydrate supplementation can improve perception, intuition and reasoning.

“Students should study beforehand and be prepared,” said Shields. “This will allow students to get that confidence and prepare for all of their finals.”

Shields encourages students to know the material to instill confidence in themselves in order to give it their best performance.

“I try to study more than I usually do and for a longer amount of time,” said EWU sophomore Madison Little. “I would not drink a night before I had a final or any test.”

The week before finals, the bars in downtown Cheney celebrate the last Thursday of the quarter. Some students might find it hard to balance finals and going out with friends, while some keep the tradition going of celebrating the quarter almost being over.

“I do a little bit of studying a few days before finals,” said EWU senior Brody Baird. “My ASL class is kind of hard but it won’t influence if I go out on [last Thursday] or not.”

So if procrastinating is an unbreakable habit during finals, remember to make the testing season easier by maintaining a structured sleeping schedule along with healthy food choices.

EWU student brings Love Your Melon to campus

By Kristi Lucchetta | staff writer

EWU now has a student-run college apparel brand, Love Your Melon, with the mission to give a hat to every child battling cancer in America.

EWU junior Kaitlin Dessin first thought to bring the organization to EWU when she saw a post on Instagram about the cause. “A girl I went to high school with, who is an ambassador of Love Your Melon, had it on her Instagram, so I went and filled out an application and got it started here,” Dessin said.

Love Your Melon is a buy one, give one program. When a hat is purchased through loveyourmelon.com, the buyer receives a hat and a hat is also given to a child battling cancer. The hats are donated at hospitals nationally by college ambassadors dressed as superheroes.

Dessin first reached out to members of the Greek community along with friends and family, and also made announcements in her classes.

The Love Your Melon campus crew can have up to 20 members, and is at full capacity right now with a waiting list. Those on the list are welcome to help out with events if needed.

“These first couple of months have been about getting the grasp of things,” said Dessin. “[We are] getting the foundation of what we are doing.”

The campus crew members reach out to children in the community as well.

“There is so much we get the opportunity of doing as a crew member,” said Tessa McIntyre, EWU freshman and Love Your Melon crew member. “[We get the opportunity] of dressing up like superheroes and going into the local children’s hospitals and handing out the beanies to the children ourselves.”

In the spring, the group plans on taking a Betz Elementary student who is battling cancer out on a fun day.

“It is more about those people reaching out and being your support system for those children,” said Dessin. “[The children] always have that immediate support, but it is a great feeling to know you have other people reaching out.”

The group also plans on putting together a concert fundraiser in Cheney during spring. Besides the music, this event will have food and swing dance lessons. All the money raised will go to associated organizations: CureSearch Foundation and The Pinky Swear Foundation.

CureSearch is an organization that provides funding to find a cure for cancer, according to curesearch.org. The Pinky Swear Foundation supports and donates funds to the families of cancer patients, according to pinkyswear.org.



EWU junior Kaitlin Dessin, president of EWU Love Your Melon, showing off her Love Your Melon beanie

Contributed by Kaitlin Dessin

“I’ve volunteered, ... but I’ve never been able to be this involved in planning events, raising money and being so hands-on with an organization,” said Mattie Kelton, EWU senior and vice president of Love Your Melon. “[Love Your Melon] not only gives a hat to every child battling cancer, but it also gives 50 percent of the proceeds to CureSearch and The Pinky Swear Foundation.”

Love Your Melon has reserved more than 45,000 hats to donate to children battling cancer in the United States, which is equal to the number of children currently undergoing cancer treatment in the country, according to loveyourmelon.com.

To join the Love Your Melon crew, students can email Dessin at kaitlinmdessin@gmail.com and express their interest.

Musical adaptation of Shakespeare comes to EWU

By Brad Brown | contributing writer

“Love’s Labour’s Lost: The Musical” – a musical adaptation of Shakespeare’s romantic comedy – is scheduled to open March 4 at EWU’s University Theatre.

Students and faculty have come together to produce an abridged version of Shakespeare’s classic with a blend of contemporary rock music for the theater program’s winter production. The first of two weekend showings begins March 4 and runs through March 6. The musical will also be performed the following weekend, running from March 10 through March 12.

“Love’s Labour’s Lost: The Musical” tells the coming-of-age story of a group of young men who take a sacred vow to swear off the joys of women. But when four cute, clever girls show up, the men are forced to reconsider their promises.

Director of the musical Jeff Sanders said he believes this is a show made for college students. Searching for new material to try out, Sanders said the moment he heard the original cast recording he thought to himself, “There’s no possible way a college audience wouldn’t enjoy it.”

“They’re going to love the music, they’re going to love the story, they’re going to see themselves in it most importantly,” Sanders said.

From the backstage crew, to prop and sound designers, choreographers and others, the production is largely put on the shoulders of students.

“It’s a massive undertaking,” said Sanders. “So many people are putting in so much in such a unified goal of telling a great story.”

Tickets are free to all EWU students with ID and \$10 cash or check at the door for non-students. Reservations can be made by calling the Theatre Office at 509-359-2459.

Love’s Labour’s Lost: The Musical

Showtimes - 7:30 p.m. March 4, 5, 11, 12
2:00 p.m. March 6
5:00 p.m. March 10

Where - EWU University Theatre

Cost - \$10 public admission

Free to EWU students w/ ID

Reservations- 509-359-2459

Graphic by Abbi Vance

Spokane holds spring break opportunities

By Erin Rebar | contributing writer

Spring break is almost upon us, and with it comes stories and expectations of a wild trip away.

According to the Chicago Tribune, a study by cheaptickets.com found “more than half of college students plan to hit the road, with many planning trips on a budget to such destinations as Las Vegas; Cancun, Mexico; and Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.” While this data may not hold true for EWU students, it does point toward a rather significant national trend.

Out of a group of 10 EWU students asked about their plans for spring break, five stated they would return home for the break to visit with family and friends. Four students said they would remain in Cheney for the duration of the break, and one student, senior Emily Heine, commented that she would head to Leavenworth, Washington, “for some Bavarian food and beautiful hikes.”

For students unable to travel, opportunities exist in both Cheney and Spokane to make sure spring break will be a time of both relaxation and fun.

Mt. Spokane, a ski and snowboard park approximately 36 miles northeast of Spokane, is still open. Along with more traditional slopes, Mt. Spokane offers night skiing, a tubing hill, ski and snowboard lessons and a terrain park featuring “almost a mile of progression-oriented kickers, hits, jibs and more for freestylers of all skill levels,” according to mtspokane.com.

In Spokane, numerous opportunities for entertainment abound. According to Heine, the Garland Theater in Spokane is a great place to visit. Tickets for the theater are \$5 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday and are \$2.50 on Wednesdays.

Other activities in Spokane include going out to eat with friends, shopping at the mall or visiting the zoo — Cat

Tales Zoological Park.

Cat Tales Zoological Park is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for seniors and students, \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under the age of 12, according to Cat Tales’ website. According to the site, the zoo is currently home to several species of tigers, two black bears, African lions, leopards, pumas and a parrot.

Students interested in a bit of outdoor fun close to home can explore a waterfall located just 1.5 miles off a trail near Cheney, according to EWU senior Monica Webber. “I had no idea there was a waterfall near Cheney,” said Webber. “My aunt tagged me in a picture of it on Facebook.”

“

Manito Park on the South Hill is a great place for a walk or picnic, or the Turnbull Wildlife Refuge outside Cheney.”

Jacob Mack | EWU senior

The waterfall, known unofficially as Hog Canyon Falls, is positioned at the far end of Hog Lake and accessible by the Hog Lake Loop trail, according to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. A Discover Pass is required to park in the trailhead parking lot.

“I would suggest looking up some hiking trips,” said Jacob Mack, EWU senior. “Manito Park on the South Hill is a great place for a walk or picnic, or the Turnbull Wildlife Refuge outside Cheney.”

Other students also recommended hiking and picnics as fun spring break activities. “[I would] check out the Columbia Plateau Trail [or] try hiking at Bowl and Pitcher,” EWU senior David Drollman said.

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More diversity needed in two-credit classes

By Joe Matthews | staff writer

There are many one and two-credit classes offered at Eastern, but what is lacking is diversity amongst those classes.

Almost every one of those classes requires physical activity, whether it be Yoga, Zumba or, of course, Fast Fitness. There are a couple non-P.E. classes scattered throughout our vast catalogues that are two credits, like Introduction to Children Studies or Practical Problem Solving, but nothing that proves to be the safety net and potential GPA-saver our fitness classes are.

While working out is definitely a good thing to encourage, Eastern should be promoting other activities that let students express themselves while obtaining minimal credits.

A two-credit class could be crucial for someone who needs a full schedule because of financial aid, but also needs to work to support themselves. Taking two five-credit classes and one easy two-credit class could lift a huge weight off one's shoulders. But when the only two-credit classes require working out, it can become a burden.

While some enjoy working out, there are other activities some students might enjoy more.

"I personally don't have a problem with it, and I think that the variety of classes is to encourage good health," said EWU senior Darrin Love. "However, I do think that they should offer more low-credit classes. Something like a photography or writing class where you still need to complete a set number of assignments in order to pass."

This is a great idea. Having an art class that requires two one-hour assignments a week would take just as much time as



Illustration by Heidi Wachtel

a workout class. Two hours per week for 10 weeks is equivalent to the amount of time required for a 4.0 in Fast Fitness, so why can't that time be used for things people who prefer not to work out find worthwhile?

Not only are there people who don't want to work out, there are people who physically can't work out. Those with disabilities are very limited in the number of low-credit classes offered to them just because they are physically unable to meet the requirements.

As of 2012, 11 percent of college students reported having a disability, according to the Institute of Education Sciences, and though not all students may have mobility issues, those who do should be accommodated for.

There are several people in classes such as Fast Fitness who

barely do anything and are rewarded with a 4.0 just for showing up; for some it's just sitting on a bike and watching TV or sitting on a Yoga ball texting.

For those who want a reliable 4.0 in a two-credit class but don't want to spend it at the gym, there should be other options. Some people need a way to make a full schedule without exerting lots of energy at the gym; others are just seeking an easy 4.0 but don't want to obtain it through working out.

Taking this and the fact that there are students who physically can't participate in P.E. classes into consideration, it would be of great convenience, and probably more enjoyable for those who don't want to work out, if Eastern offered more of a variety of minimal-credit classes.

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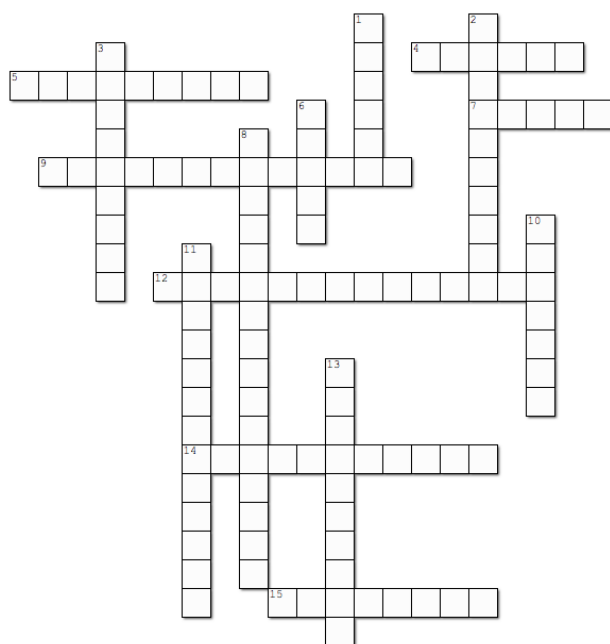
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Issue 19 Crossword

Complete the crossword below by reading the articles this week

Across

4. This president visited Eastern by train
5. Big Sky record was broken in what event
7. The accreditation organization EWU is a part of
9. Had her last home game as a senior
12. Fun place to go hike and are also dishes
14. Is occurring on March 3 at 4 p.m. at the EWU Riverpoint campus
15. This dorm made Police Beat twice

Down

1. Percent of college students reported having a disability
2. Author of "Woven"
3. Is 8 points away from EWU men's basketball record
6. EWU Womens Center manager
8. LLL: The Musical
10. Broke a school record in the women's 60-meter
11. Student-run college apparel
13. This hot item has been banned by EWU

Police Beat

By Mike Manning | administrative assistant

February 22, 11:59 p.m.

HARASSMENT

A male student reported being harassed for his sexual orientation by another male student to a professor. The professor made a further report about the harassment and the offender was referred to Student Rights and Responsibilities.

February 23, 1:47 a.m.

SUSPENDED LICENSE

A male student was pulled over near Cedar Street and Washington Street for headlights being turned off. Upon running his license, it was found to be suspended and the driver possessed a misdemeanor warrant. He was arrested.

February 23, 12 a.m.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

A female in Streeter Hall made a report regarding a sexual assault that occurred in September 2014. It is currently under investigation.

February 25, 2 p.m.

HIT AND RUN

A male left his red Mercedes parked in Lot 3 near the computer engineering building on the evening of Feb. 24. Upon returning to his car he noticed damage to the front driver's side fender. There are no current leads or suspects.

February 27, 1:30 a.m.

ALCOHOL

A CA on the fifth floor of Morrison Hall reported seeing a heavily intoxicated male. Police responded and made contact with the male. He was evaluated by medics but not transported for further treatment. The male was found to be underage and a visitor from WSU. He was arrested.

February 27, 3:58 a.m.

ALCOHOL

A CA reported there was a heavily intoxicated female in the lobby of Morrison Hall. Officers made contact with the female student. She was found to be underage and was arrested and referred to Student Rights and Responsibilities.

February 28, 2:19 a.m.

ALCOHOL

A CA on the second floor of snyamncut reported observing a male carrying a bottle of liquor. Officers responded and located the student, who was found to be underage. He was arrested and referred to Student Rights and Responsibilities.



Illustration by Linlin Xing

Track takes four titles at conference championships

Women's track finishes third, best ever placement

By Riley Baker | staff writer

Women's track finished in third place, the best placement for women's track and field in school history, at the Big Sky Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships in Bozeman, Montana.

Sophomore Rebecca Tarbert broke a school record in the women's 60-meter, finishing with a time of 7.47 seconds in preliminaries on Feb. 26 and finished with a time of 7.51 to win the race.

Tarbert also won the short-sprint indoor title, the sixth in school history and the first since 2004. She had a preliminary time of 25.01 in the 200-meter to rank her No. 4 all-time at EWU and placed sixth with a time of 25.03.

The women's team finished in third place with 79.5 points after finishing in fourth place last year. The team broke its previous school record of 68 points, set in 2015.

Other all-conference finishers included redshirt senior Katie Mahoney who finished third in the mile with a time of 4:58.85. Junior Sarah Reiter finished second in the 3,000-meter with a time of 9:55.99 and sophomore Dominique Butler finished second in the triple jump with a distance of 39 1/2.

The women's distance medley relay team finished with a time of 11:51.19 to

win the school's first indoor women's relay title, breaking the previous record set last season of 11:51.50. The team consisted of junior Paula Gil-Echevarria, junior Brooke Monson, sophomore Leanne Asper and Mahoney.

Mahoney finished sixth in the 3,000-meter in her third and final event at the conference championships with a time of 10:08.27.

The 4x400 relay team of junior Paige Hammock, junior Erika Lombardo, Monson and Asper finished eighth with a time of 3:56.78.

Redshirt junior Anandae Clark finished in a tie for fifth place in the pole vault with a height of 12-2 1/2.

The Eagles had two finishers in the shot put, including senior Kaytlyn Coleman finishing fourth with a distance of 47-6 1/4 and redshirt junior Kelsie Forcier finishing eighth with a distance of 45-5 1/4.

"As is the nature of track and field, we had events that we didn't do as well in as we had hoped and events that we performed way beyond expectations," said women's head coach Marcia Mecklenburg. "Our third place finish was the best the women have ever had indoors and has made the program hungry to do better as we head into the outdoor season."



Rebecca Tarbert takes first place in the 60-meter dash. Tarbert was also the first Eagle since 2004 to bring home the short-sprint title | Contributed by Kelly Gorham

Men's track team collects awards in Bozeman

By Grace Pohl | staff writer

The EWU men's track and field team finished eighth at the Big Sky Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships in Bozeman, Montana, this Feb. 25-27.

Freshman Larry Still received a conference championship title in the pole vault while also breaking the previous school record. He completed a height of 17-0. Todd Freitag in 1988 was the last pole vault champion before Still's accomplishments on Feb. 27.

The previous school record was set by senior Nick Stearns, who placed third at this conference championship, marking a height of 16-4 3/4. His previous record was set in 2014 with a mark of 16-8 3/4. Still was also given the meet's Most Outstanding Athlete award.

"It feels like we red-lined the Eagle pride meter with Larry Still winning the conference championship in the pole vault and setting a new school record," said men's head coach Stan Kerr. "The deeper part of the pride is that he did it against Nick Stearns, who placed third in the pole vault and was the previous record holder."

Sophomore Jeremy VanAssche ranked first going into the finals with his preliminary time of 6.77 seconds in the 60-meter. VanAssche went on to win the men's 60 with a time of 6.77, just .02 from a school record.

Junior Austin Upmeyer ran a 49.24 in the 400-meter, ranking him No. 2 going into the finals. He placed fourth in the event and participated on both relay teams.

Junior Andrew Morgan placed eighth in the high jump with a height of 6-7, adding one point to the men's final team score.

Redshirt sophomore Aaron Cunningham placed seventh in the weight throw with a toss of 58-1.

"Aaron Cunningham got the pride for the team rolling with his season best performance. I was pleased with Andrew Morgan's high jump work. He is a guy who has battled injuries all season and rallied to finish the indoor season on a really solid note," Kerr said regarding the top finishers.

The Eagles women and men's teams had four individual conference championships and 11 top-three finishers, giving them All-Big Sky honors.



Jeremy VanAssche runs in the 60-meter dash. VanAssche took first with 6.77, only .02 short of school record | Contributed by Kelly Gorham

EWU women's basketball wins at home

By Grace Pohl | staff writer

The EWU women's basketball team improved to 19-9 overall, 13-3 in league, in their last home game of the season, beating the University of Idaho, 84-70.

The Eagles started off strong, converting five of their first seven shots. But that ended shortly after when the Vandals went on a 17-2 run resulting in a 21-14 lead for the Vandals going into the second quarter. Junior guard Tisha Phillips scored 6 straight points that helped give EWU a 9-2 run, taking a narrow 38-37 lead into halftime.

In the third quarter alone there were two ties and nine lead changes. EWU was able to hold onto a 1-point lead, 58-57, entering the final quarter of play. The Eagles were eventually able to pull away from the Vandals when they went on a 22-8 run late in the fourth quarter.

EWU shot 60 percent from the field and 57.1 percent from the 3-point arc throughout the game. Idaho shot 48.1 percent from the field while shooting 43.5 percent from the three. EWU had 17 turnovers, while the Vandals had 19 turnovers.

"I was proud of our kids for stepping up and making plays. I thought our offensive execution in the second half overall was about as good as it's been all year in terms of running our stuff and getting what we're trying to look off of it," head coach Wendy Schuller said.



EWU women's basketball team takes the court against Idaho | Contributed by EWU Sports Information

Phillips led the team in scoring with 22 points, a new career high, and went 10-of-13 while also leading with six assists and three steals.

Senior guard Hayley Hodgins scored 18 points, and had two blocks and two steals. Sophomore forward Delaney Hodgins scored 16 points and led the team with four blocks while also grabbing seven

rebounds. Junior forward Ashli Payne scored 14 points while leading the team with nine rebounds.

In celebrating senior day at Reese Court, Hayley Hodgins was the lone senior on the team to play her last game in Cheney. "I was more focused on the win," said Hodgins. "I think our team really pulled one out for me, and that

made me emotional at the end. It's surreal, but I know we have a lot more left in us this season, and we have to keep chugging away."

Hayley Hodgins now has 1,769 career points, ranking No. 8 on the all-time Big Sky scoring leaderboard.

The Eagles play their last away game against Idaho State University on March 2.

Men's basketball remains in third place despite loss

By Riley Baker | staff writer

The Eagles played their final road game of the season on Feb. 27 looking to hold on to their third place spot in the standings going into the Big Sky Conference Tournament in Reno, Nevada, March 8-12.

EWU took on the University of Idaho and could not overcome the Vandals defense in the final minutes of the game. Going into the half leading, 34-30, the Eagles shot at a 48 percent mark from the field and 38 percent from the 3-point arc while holding the Vandals to a 44 percent mark from the field. The Eagles did not allow them to score a single 3-point shot as they went 0-6 in the half from the arc.

In the first half, senior forward Venky Jois scored 9 points and senior guard Austin McBroom and junior guard Julian Harrell each had 8.

The second half stats were much different as the Eagles struggled to score. The Vandals had a 10-2 run and hit four free throws in the final minutes to seal their win, 66-62, over EWU.

The Vandals finished with a shooting percentage of 48 from the field and 38 from the arc, while the Eagles shot at 43 percent from the field and 31 percent from the arc.

This game was the first since Feb. 4 where Eastern had not made at least half of their shots.

EWU is now 10-6 in conference play and 16-12 overall. It remains in third place in the BSC, tied with Idaho with two games remaining on the schedule.

Jois finished with 16 points and five rebounds. He now has 1,733 career points and is 8 points away from the school record of 1,741.

McBroom scored 11 points with three assists and Harrell finished with 10 points and four rebounds.

Sophomore forward Bogdan Bliznyuk had 12 points and eight rebounds and junior forward Felix Von Hofe scored 10 points.

"It was a great basketball game, but Idaho was a little better than us today," said Eastern head coach Jim Hayford. "Their strength is their rebounding and they beat us on the boards. I thought we had great execution, we just missed our last five shots."

The Eagles return home to play their final two games of the season, starting with Idaho State on March 3 at 6:05 p.m.

Eagles beat Pirates, fall to Wildcats

By Brandon Cline | sports editor



Women's tennis dropped their first conference match of the season to the Weber State Wildcats, losing, 3-4, in a tightly contested affair at home on Feb. 26.

The Eagles grabbed the doubles point after winning all three doubles sets with relative ease. Though, the Eagles dropped two tight matches to the Wildcats in the first and second singles matches. Sophomore Janaya Smith dropped the first singles match in three sets, 1-6, 6-4, 4-6, while redshirt senior Moira Hedberg lost the second singles match in two tight sets, 6-7 (5), 5-7.

Sophomore Rachel Swindell picked up a win slotted in the third singles position, defeating Weber State's Sara Parker, 6-4, 7-6 (5). Freshman Faye Worrall had the only other singles match win for the Eagles against the Wildcats, defeating Morgan Dickason, 7-6 (5), 6-1, in the sixth singles spot.

In the fifth singles spot, junior Erin Blessing lost in a three set match, 3-6, 6-2, 3-6, while junior Dani Young lost her match, 4-6, 3-6, to Weber State's Dominique Beauvais. The Eagles moved to 3-1 in Big Sky play through the month of February, compared to a 1-3 conference record heading into March last season.

"We did really well in doubles as we've done all season and carried excellent effort, energy, and fight into the singles matches," said head coach Dustin Hinson. "At the end of the day, we just didn't execute as well as we have in the past at key moments in our singles matches."

The Eagles did pick up a win over the weekend, cruising past the Whitworth Pirates, 7-0, in a non-conference match on Feb. 27. In 12 singles sets, the Eagles dropped just five games to the NCAA Division III school.

Swindell and Worrall picked up their second singles wins of the weekend, winning in the second and fourth singles positions, respectively. Worrall bageled the Pirates' Anabelle Burns, 6-0, 6-0, while Swindell routed Jennifer Adams, 6-0, 6-1.

Junior Carolina Lopez and freshman Jennifer Lewis both saw action in singles matches against Whitworth, with Lopez winning, 6-1, 6-1, in the fifth singles spot and Lewis recording the Eagles' second double-bagel of the match in the sixth singles position, winning, 6-0, 6-0.

"It was the most dominant performance top to bottom that we've had in my time here at Eastern," said Hinson. "I was proud of our response to such a tough loss on Friday. There is no give in this team and they won't let one bump in the road deter them from working towards achieving our goals this season."

The Eagles improved their overall record to 9-4 with the win, after recording just five wins in the entire 2015 season and three in the 2014 campaign.

The Eagles take on the Idaho State Bengals at home on March 4 at 3 p.m. The Bengals have yet to play a conference match on the season, and are 2-5 in non-conference matches.

(top) Freshman Faye Worrall serves against Weber State on Feb 26, (bottom) Junior Erin Blessing keys in to hit a backhand | Photos by Melanie Flint

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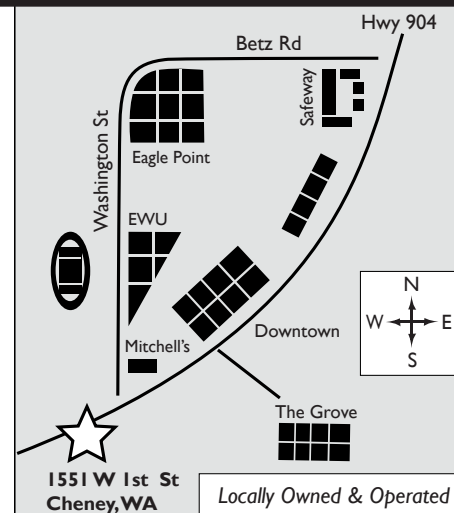
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